Production Centre, Bangalore and Eastern Regional Production Centre, Calcutta, apart from a unit of the Division at New Delhi for production of family welfare and defence training films.

(b) These centres have been provided with essential items of equipment and facilities such as 16mm cameras, editing machines and recording equipment.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). One of the primary functions of Doordarshan is to provide a platform, through its channels, to the abundant talent available within the country in various regions in the field of music and other cultural art forms. The local artists are also engaged by the Films Division for its featurettes.

[English]

International Airport in Punjab

2960. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by people visiting Punjab from foreign countries due to the absence of an international airport in Punjab;

(b) if so, the time by which an international airport is likely to be established there;

(c) the details of airports proposed to be set up in the Punjab and the locations thereof; and

(d) the time by which the work is likely to commence thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Amritsar Airport is already provided with facilities to cater to international operations.

(c) and (d). At present, there is no proposal to set up any new airport in Punjab.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

2961. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Ajmer-Khandwa and Ajmer-Chitor-Udaipur lines into broad gauge;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted/ propose to conduct any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for the the development of Nasirabad and Vijay Nagar Railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Survey for Ajmer-Chitor-Udaipur section has been completed. Chittaurgarh-Neemuch section is Broad Gauge. Work on Neemuch-Ratlam section has been taken up. Survey for Ratlam-Khandwa Gauge Conversion has been taken up.

(d) The stations will be provided with adequate facilities to handle the level of traffic alongwith the Gauge Conversion works in the coming years.

[English]

Schemes for Concessional Fares

2962. SHRI A.C. JOSE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines/Air India have any schemes which allows concessional fares for ordinary passengers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some such schemes in existence at present are :-

(1) Special introductory fares on Air India's new operations to Chicago. One domestic round trip ticket is also offered to every passenger travelling round trip between India and New York/Chicago on certain classes of fares.

(2) 25% incentive has also been introduced from 16.10.96 till 31.03.97 on net fare portion applicable to domestic sectors on Air India network.

Indian Airlines offers 50% discount on fares to senior citizens, students, blind persons, cancer patients war widows, war disabled persons, members of armed forces and personnel of general reserve engineering force etc.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Tamil Nadu

2963. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections provided in Tamil Nadu, district-wise and category-wise during 1996-97, till date;

(b) the number of telephone connections proposed to be given during the remaining period of 1996-97, district-wise and category-wise;

(c) the number of telephone connections proposed to be given during the remaining period of 1996-97, district-wise and category-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to provide telephone connections to the remaining persons?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) (a) the required information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

(b) and (c). the details are enclosed statement.

(d) necessary equipment and materials will be arranged to provide telephone connections to the remaining persons during 1997-98

STATEMENT

Sl No.	Name of Telephone District	Name/s of Revenue District covered	Waiting list (as on 30-11-96) OYT	NOYT	Total	Telephone connection proposed for remaining period of 1996-97*
1.	Chengalpattu	Chengalpattu MGR	102	13223	13325	4297
2.	Coimbatore	Coimbatore	586	49724	50310	13245
3.	Nilgiris	Nilgiris	26	5071	5097	3199
4	Cuddalore	Villupuram Vallalar	378	16803	17181	4406
5.	Dharmapuri	Dharmapuri	449	10175	10624	4112
6.	Erode	Periyar	58	26669	26727	14643
7.	Karaikudi Ramnethpuram	Pasumpon	225	11216	11441	4940
8.	Kumbakonam	Nagapattinam Qemilad (prt) Tanjavur (Prt)	155	11409	11564	1374
9.	Madurai	Madurai Dindigul Anna	109	31726	31835	13437
10.	Nagarcoil	Kanyakumari	164	14821	14985	6076
11.	Salem	Salem	281	38213	38494	8573
12.	Thanjavur	Thanavur (Prt) Nagapattanam-Oemilad (prt)	496	15119	15615	6250
13.	Tirunelveli	Nellai Kattabomman	15	10722	10737	5841
14.	Trichy	Karur Pudukottai Perambalur	1360	36596	37956	17653
15.	Tuticorin	V.O. Chindambaranar	34	10545	10579	2931
16.	Vellore	Ambedkar Sambuvarayar	196	22387	22583	7110
17.	Virudhunagar	Kamarajar	28	8838	8866	3660
18.	Chennai	Chennai	5809	97353	103162	50539

Note :- Telephone connections are to be provided category-wise in the ratio 60:40 for OYT and NOYT categories respectively.

[English]

Implementation of Employment Assurance Scheme

2964. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have implemented the Employment Assurance Scheme;

(b) if so, since when and the names of States where this scheme is being launched;

(c) whether the scheme has been extend upto Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the entire State has been covered under the Scheme; and